GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2451
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
PROMOTION OF REGIONAL TRADE
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to promote the development of regional trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on this scheme during each of the last three years; and

(d) the details of custom offices located on the borders in the country at present?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) to c): No, Sir, there is no specific scheme under which regional trade is promoted. However, India has signed Free Trade Agreements(FTAs) with Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nepal and Bhutan, and South Asian Free Trade Area(SAFTA) with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. India has also signed Preferential Trade Agreements(PTAs) with Afghanistan, Chile and MERCOSUR, and is signatory to the regional preferential trading agreements, namely, Asia Pacific Trade Agreement(Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka as members) and Global System of Trade Preference(open to all developing countries). India has an Early Harvest Scheme with Thailand where tariff concessions are exchanged on 82 products.

d): A total of 136 Land Customs Stations, 36 Customs airport and 95 customs ports have been notified for import and export of goods.